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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Division of Oil, Gas & Mining

MICHAEL R. STYLER
Executive Director

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Division Director

Supervisor *SW [signature]*
ADH

Inspection Report

Minerals Regulatory Program

Report Date: June 2, 2005

Mine Name: Walker Flat
Operator or Permittee Name:
Miracle Rock Mining and Research
Permittee Mailing Address:
400S. 200 E., P. O. Box 76, Emery, UT 84522

Permit number: S/015/081
Inspection Date: May 5, 2005

Inspector(s): Paul Baker

Weather: Mostly cloudy, 60's
Inspection Start Time: 12:50 PM
Inspection End Time: 1:30 PM
Site location/Area Inspected (i.e. Pit #):
Entire area

Other Participants: Dave Taylor

Permit Status: Active
Current Acreages: :
Total Permitted (Bonded): 5 permitted, 0 bonded
Total Disturbed: about 5

Surface Ownership: Fee
Mineral Ownership: Fee
Mineral Mined: Humic shale
Type of Mine: Surface

Elements of Inspection	Evaluated	N/A	Comment	Enforcement
1. Permits, Revisions, Transfer, Bonds	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Public Safety (open shafts, adits, trash, signs, highwalls)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Protection of Drainages	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Explosives, magazines	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Deleterious Material	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Roads (maintenance, surfacing, dust control, safety)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Concurrent Reclamation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Erosion Control	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Demolition	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Backfilling and Grading (trenches, pits, roads, highwalls, shafts, drill holes)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Water Impoundments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. Revegetation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. Air Quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. Facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16. Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Purpose of Inspection:

There was no specific purpose for the inspection. I had not seen this site for about a year and decided to see how the operation was progressing.

Inspection Summary:

1. Permits, Revisions, Transfer, Bonds

The site is not currently bonded, but the operator will need to submit a bond within about the next year.

3. Protection of Drainages

The operator is mining small plateaus right next to some small ephemeral drainages (Photo 1). While the mining is occurring, the operator builds small berms on the edge of the areas being mined. This is probably an MSHA requirement, but it also helps keep sediment out of the drainages.

13. Revegetation

Several areas have been regraded and seeded over the last few years. The most successful has been one that was seeded in 2002. The soil in this area included some sandstone, and vegetation cover is probably close to what is needed for final release.

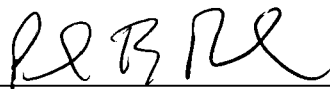
Mr. Taylor said he thought this area had been fully released. I cannot find any correspondence indicating this happened, and it has not been three growing seasons since the site was seeded. Nevertheless, vegetation *has* survived more than one growing season, so the Division can exclude this area for the purposes of determining whether the site is a small mining operation.

We looked at some other areas that have been reclaimed within the past one or two years. In comparison with the area reclaimed in 2002, these areas had little sandstone; most of the surface was shale-derived soil. We found just a few seeded species in these areas, but there were quite a few native annuals. It has been an unusually wet winter and first part of the spring, so I expected more plants to be growing.

Conclusions/Recommendations:

The operator should evaluate the revegetation techniques being used. If possible, some rock, particularly sandstone, should be placed on the surface. The operator should also try to make the surface rougher and should ensure that seed is applied as soon as possible after surface preparation. I do not know how the seed was handled or from where it was obtained, but care needs to be taken to store it properly and to purchase it from a reputable dealer.

Inspector's Signature



Date: June 2, 2005

PBB:jb

Enclosures: Photo attachment

cc: Dave Taylor, Operator

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**ATTACHMENT
Photographs**

S/015/081, Walker Flat Mine, Miracle Rock Mining and Research
Inspection Dated: May 5, 2005; Report Dated: June 2, 2005



Photo 1. The area near the center and to the right is being mined.



Photo 2. A recently reclaimed area.



Photo 3. Another recently reclaimed area. There is not a lot of vegetation.



Photo 4. Still another recently reclaimed area.